



# News Release

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## State disciplines health care providers

**OLYMPIA** -- The Washington State Department of Health has taken disciplinary actions or withdrawn charges against health care providers in our state.

The department's Health Systems Quality Assurance Division works with boards, commissions, and advisory committees to set licensing standards for more than 80 health care professions (e.g., dentists, nurses, counselors). Information about disciplinary action taken against medical doctors and physician assistants can be found on the [Washington Medical Commission \(WMC\) website](#). Questions about WMC disciplinary actions can be sent to [media@wmc.wa.gov](mailto:media@wmc.wa.gov).

Information about health care providers is on the agency website. Click on "[Look up a health care provider license](#)" in the "How Do I?" section of the [Department of Health website](#) ([doh.wa.gov](http://doh.wa.gov)). The site includes information about a health care provider's license status, the expiration and renewal date of their credential, disciplinary actions and copies of legal documents issued after July 1998. This information is also available by calling 360-236-4700. Consumers who think a health care provider acted unprofessionally are encouraged to call and report their complaint.

## Benton County

In July 2019 the Nursing Commission charged licensed practical nurse **Eli Eames Brackenbury** (LP60255291) with unprofessional conduct. Brackenbury allegedly didn't fully assess a patient subsequently diagnosed with a hemorrhage suspected to have resulted from an aneurysm, and left the patient alone at home with her adolescent daughter.

In July 2019 the Unlicensed Practice Program notified **Sami Anwar** of its intent to issue a cease-and-desist order. Anwar allegedly has no physician license, but, as chief executive officer of a medical center, interfered with clinical care, reviewed patient charts, and instructed a physician assistant how to treat patients.

## Clark County

In July 2019 the Massage Therapist Program charged massage therapist **Galen Dunn** (MA60428938) with unprofessional conduct. Dunn allegedly didn't meet continuing education requirements.

In July 2019 the Nursing Assistant Program charged certified nursing assistant **Heidi M. Williams** (NC10071708) with unprofessional conduct. Williams allegedly diverted controlled substances from patients at an assisted living facility where she worked, tested positive for controlled substances for which she didn't have prescriptions, and didn't respond to a Department of Health inquiry.

### **Cowlitz County**

In July 2019 the secretary of health ended probation for certified nursing assistant **Danyelle Atrisha Lopez** (NC60624323).

### **Douglas County**

In July 2019 the Nursing Assistant Program charged certified nursing assistant **Stephanie Nelson** (NC60325356) with unprofessional conduct. In 2017 Nelson was convicted of possession of methamphetamine.

### **King County**

In July 2019 the secretary of health conditionally granted a chemical dependency professional credential to **David Joseph Grant** (CO60924585) and ordered him to participate in a substance abuse monitoring program. In 2011 Grant was convicted in Oregon of driving while license suspended. In 2012 he was convicted in Oregon of giving false information to a peace officer for cite, resisting arrest, and third-degree escape. In 2013 he was convicted in Oregon of driving under the influence of intoxicants.

In July 2019 the Surgical Technologist Program charged surgical technologist **Sean Patrick Pearson** (ST60110525) with unprofessional conduct. Pearson's physician assistant credential was suspended in June 2019 in connection with a determination that he was unable to safely practice that profession.

In July 2019 the Chiropractic Commission charged chiropractor **Caitlin Marie Czezowski** (CH60603264) with unprofessional conduct. Czezowski allegedly published misleading advertising about cures for diabetes and hypothyroidism, and practiced outside her scope in treating a diabetic patient.

In July 2019 the secretary of health conditionally granted a registered nursing assistant credential to **Chelsea Nicole Pierce** (NA60886839) and ordered her to participate in a substance abuse monitoring program. In 2015 Pierce was convicted of solicitation to commit violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act-possession of methamphetamine.

In July 2019 the Unlicensed Practice Program notified **Juliette King** of its intent to issue a cease-and-desist order. King allegedly has no physician license, but admitted to practicing colon hydrotherapy for 13 years and electro lymphatic therapy for two years.

In July 2019 the Unlicensed Practice Program notified **Barbara Glass** of its intent to issue a cease-and-desist order. Glass allegedly has no license to practice large animal massage, but advertised herself as a provider of equine bodywork and massage.

In July 2019 the Denturists Board entered an agreement with denturist **Jorge A. Vizcarra** (DN00000259) that fines him \$5,000 and subjects his practice to inspections. Vizcarra represented himself as a dentist despite not having a dentist credential, didn't properly display his denturist license, couldn't provide a copy of his clinic's infection control procedures, and didn't use appropriate sanitation methods.

In July 2019 the Nursing Assistant Program entered an agreement with certified nursing assistant **Patrick Kiarie Kihuria** (NC10086041) that fines him \$250, and requires him to complete continuing education in patient rights and dignity, as well as in law in ethics. Kihuria's credential was suspended in April 2019. Upon determining that Kihuria left two residents unattended in a vehicle or in a parking lot on a hot summer day, and that he allowed one resident to wander off the property, the state Department of Social and Health Services placed him on its long-term care neglect registry. That prohibited him from caring for or having unsupervised access to vulnerable adults.

In July 2019 the secretary of health reinstated the registered nursing assistant and certified nursing assistant credentials of **Waiyego E. Pearson** (NA00149851, NC60312091). Pearson's licenses were suspended in 2014 in connection with neglecting a vulnerable adult.

### **Mason County**

In July 2019 the Nursing Commission entered an agreement with registered nurse **Rosamond L. Hoover** (RN00173669) that requires her to participate in a substance abuse monitoring program. Hoover admitted using controlled substances for which she lacked prescriptions while under terms of a substance abuse monitoring contract.

### **Pierce County**

In July 2019 the Naturopathy Board charged naturopathic physician **Marvin L. Gentry** (NT00001200) with unprofessional conduct. Gentry allegedly didn't respond to Department of Health messages about an investigation.

In July 2019 the Nursing Commission charged licensed practical nurse **Karen E. Riveness** (LP00048682) with unprofessional conduct. Riveness allegedly didn't complete required supervised clinical medication administration and documentation, and didn't enroll in a required refresher course.

### **Skagit County**

In July 2019 the Physical Therapy Board filed an amended statement of charges against physical therapist **Jay Arthur Smith** (PT00002050) to add details to allegations that Smith improperly touched a patient during treatment sessions.

## Spokane County

In July 2019 the Home Care Aide and Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems programs charged home care aide and emergency medical technician **Kimberly Faye Alstrom** (HM60349812, ES60756535) with unprofessional conduct. Alstrom allegedly admitted having a romantic and sexual relationship with a patient at an assisted living facility where she worked.

In July 2019 the secretary of health reinstated the registered nursing assistant credential of **Angela Hope McClain** (NA00170193). McClain's license was suspended in 2013 in connection with medication irregularities involving a patient at an adult family home she owned.

In July 2019 the Nursing Commission entered an agreement with registered nurse **James Taylor Henry** (RN00151182) that lifts the suspension of his credential and requires him to undergo evaluation for a substance abuse monitoring program. Henry's license was suspended in February 2019. In 2018 Henry surrendered his Arizona and Maryland registered nurse licenses. In 2015 he was convicted in Arizona of driving under the influence.

In July 2019 the Unlicensed Practice Program notified **Quanlin Zhu** of its intent to issue a cease-and-desist order. Zhu allegedly admitted performing massage, but doesn't have a license.

In July 2019 the secretary of health conditionally granted a registered nursing assistant credential to **Laura Luann Haste** (NA60935745), placed her on probation, and ordered her to participate in a substance abuse monitoring program. Haste's pharmacy technician credential was placed on probation in 2015.

## Whatcom County

In July 2019 the secretary of health ended conditions on the home care aide and chemical dependency professional credentials of **Alexandra Virginia Hendricks-Hockey** (HM60516410, CP60799364).

In July 2019 the secretary of health agreed to reinstate the chiropractor and naturopathic physician credentials of **Matthew R. Tellez** (CH00033709, NT00001183) and placed him on probation for at least two years. Tellez's licenses were suspended in 2018 because he engaged in a sexual relationship with a patient.

## Out of State

**Idaho:** In July 2019 the Nursing Commission entered an agreement with licensed practical nurse **Aaron Michael Kuchinski** (LP60479367) that places him on probation for at least two years. Kuchinski must submit performance reports and adhere to employment restrictions. He must complete continuing education in professional accountability and legal liability, and in-patient assessment. While working at a skilled nursing facility, Kuchinski didn't assess an 86-year-old patient who had chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, didn't document that he

observed the patient becoming confused and experiencing shortness of breath, and didn't contact the patient's primary care provider (despite being asked to do so by two nursing assistants) or family. The patient died later that day.

**New York:** In July 2019 the Unlicensed Practice Program entered an agreement with **Zelia Balogun** that requires her to cease and desist from practicing as a nursing assistant without a license, and to pay a \$1,000 fine. Despite having no nursing assistant license, Balogun worked a shift as a nursing assistant and presented a time card in her daughter's name.

**Note to Editors:** Health care providers charged with unprofessional conduct have 20 days to respond to the Department of Health in writing. The case then enters the settlement process. If no disciplinary agreement can be reached, the case will go to a hearing.

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